

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Alberts Announces Hampton Eligible for Small Town Grants



State Rep. Mike Alberts, 50<sup>th</sup> District, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret, Woodstock, announced that Hampton is now eligible to apply to the state for Small Town Economic Assistance (STEAP) grants.

Rep. Alberts said, “A new law will allow Hampton the opportunity to qualify for STEAP grants should the town decide to apply for them.”

He added, “In the past, Hampton qualified, ironically, for Urban Act grants and had to compete against much larger communities across the state. Simultaneously, the town was considered a Public Investment Community—too poor to be eligible for the STEAP grants. This new law is a win for small towns like Hampton across the state.”

The legislation HB 6499 passed the state House of Representatives with Rep. Alberts’s strong support, and Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed it into law July 1.

The Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funds economic development, community conservation and quality of life projects for localities that are ineligible to receive Urban Action (CGS Section 4-66c) bonds. The Office of Policy and Management administer this program.

Like Urban Act grants, STEAP funds are issued by the State Bond Commission and can only be used for capital projects. Programmatic expenditures or recurring budget expenditures are not eligible for STEAP or any other state bond program.

Projects eligible for STEAP funds include:

1. economic development projects such as (a) constructing or rehabilitating commercial, industrial, or mixed-use structures and (b) constructing, reconstructing, or repairing roads access ways, and other site improvements;
2. transit;
3. recreation and solid waste disposal projects;
4. social service-related projects, including day care centers, elderly centers, domestic violence and emergency homeless shelters, multi purpose human resource centers, and food distribution facilities;
5. housing projects;

6. pilot historic preservation and redevelopment programs that leverage private funds; and
7. other kinds of [urban] development projects involving economic and community development, transportation, environmental protection, public safety, children and families and social service programs.

The Legislature allocated \$20 million total for STEAP in FY 2001-02 and \$20 million in FY 2002-03. Each eligible municipality may receive no more than \$500,000 per fiscal year under the program toward all projects.

Rep. Alberts serves the 50<sup>th</sup> state Assembly District that includes Hampton.